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Election official: Venezuela faces 'undemocratic' vote

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela has a transparent voting system but the election to replace late leader Hugo Chavez will be "deeply undemocratic" because the government candidate has an unfair advantage over the opposition, a member of the electoral body said.

Vicente Diaz, known as the dissenting voice on the five-member National Electoral Council (CNE), told AFP that it was impossible for opposition candidate Henrique Capriles to have as much media visibility as Chavez's chosen successor, acting President Nicolas Maduro.

"If we look at the national electoral eco-system, we stand before a deeply undemocratic election because the basic principle is that the candidates participate in equal conditions, and this is not the case," Diaz said.

Speaking on Tuesday, the day the campaign for the April 14 election formally kicked off, Diaz pulled out a local newspaper and showed a page with a Capriles campaign ad and another one for Maduro financed by the ruling PSUV socialist party.

The daily, however, contained eight more pages of Maduro ads paid for by the government.

"This shows the government's overwhelming advantage in the campaign, without a doubt. And the CNE is encouraging this situation. If Maduro wins, he will do it in the context of an unfair and uneven election," he said.

The five "rectors" of the CNE, whose president is Tibisay Lucena, are responsible for ensuring the good functioning of the campaign, the voting and the counting of votes.

Diaz is the only member of the council to have frequently denounced the alleged abuses committed by the government in elections. He lodged 16 complaints against Chavez in past campaigns, but they went nowhere.

"Ideally, the CNE would be the symbol of this diverse country," he said.

Despite his criticism of the campaign, Diaz said the electronic voting system was without reproach, with ballots cast in secret and counted correctly.

"Tim surprises Jennifer with a very special 10th Anniversary"

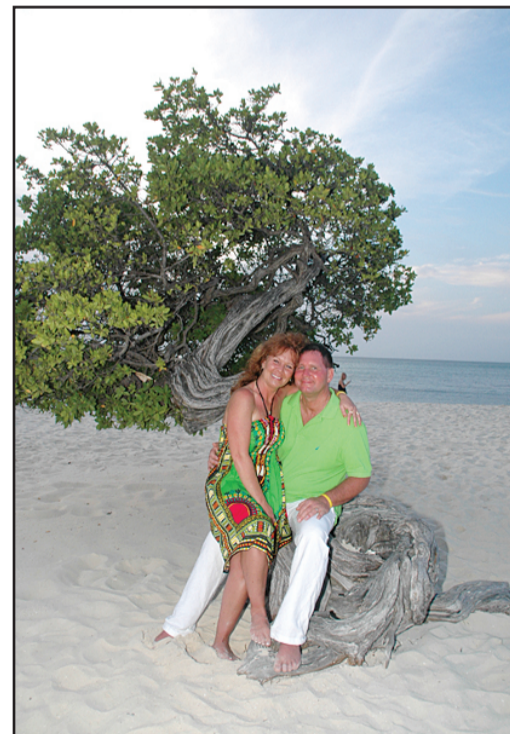


Since arriving on the island 11 years ago and falling in love with it, Timothy and Jennifer Murray celebrated their 10 year wedding anniversary on 3/3/2013 at the Divi Resort on the same beach they were married. The surprise started with a walk to that beach with Jennifer thinking they were going to have a photo session with Diane Keijzer, their photographer for their beach wedding blessing 10 years ago. Hellos were said, and Diane handed Jennifer an envelope with "Invitation" written on the front. Inside was a card with the photo of a Red Parrot on the front, and when she opened the card it was an invitation to dinner at The Red Parrot Restaurant where they had their wedding dinner, but, only after she would accept to a renewal of vows beach ceremony right there where they got married 10 years ago to the date. A very surprised Jennifer with tears running down her face said "yes, of course." Diane's husband, Kees, who prepared a beautiful conch shell and colorful flower aisle, handed Diane (who is an Ordained Reverend besides a profession-

nal photographer) her prayer shawl, and together all walked down to the beach for a memorable, smiling through the tears, ceremony. Diane made sure that the kiss to seal their union at the end of the ceremony was at exactly 3:33PM, the time they sealed their marriage union 10 years ago on 03-03-03. There were many more surprises for Jennifer, too many to mention, but the cake, prepared and beautifully decorated by the bakers at Super Food was large enough to share with the sunbathing guests who witnessed the ceremony and applauded when they kissed, and they still had

plenty cake left over to have for a few days of midnight snacks.

Continued on page 4



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Three veteran comedians opening in a new revue a the Cabaret Royale in the Westin Resort



Aruba Ray Ellin

Great night time entertainment is returning to Aruba this coming Wednesday, April 10, when three of the busiest comedians in New York City will take to the stage, during a very limited engagement, for "Aruba Ray's Comedy Revue"

The new show is the result of comedian Ray Ellin taking a vacation on Aruba in early 2012 and "absolutely falling in love with the island," he informed THE MORNING NEWS during an exclusive interview. "I returned for at least a week nearly every month since then. I really love the island; the people, the restaurants...everything about it. I usually rent a cottage and stay right in the local neighborhoods. I have become such a

nut about Aruba, telling all my friends how great it is all the time, they have nicknamed me "Aruba Ray."

Ellin was honored as one of "Ten Standout Stand-Ups Worth Watching" by Back Stage magazine, and is the host of the all-new "Gong Show Live," a resurrection of the legendary '70s talent competition. He recently hosted/co-created the pilot for the tv game show "Worth The Wait." In addition to hosting "LateNet with Ray Ellin" he was the host and writer of the syndicated television shows "The Movie Loft," "New York Now," "PremiumTV," and "BrainFuel TV". Ray has a long list of television credits including appearances on HBO, FOX, VH1, DISCOVERY, ABC, NBC, and England's Mancs vs. Yanks. His success has seen him profiled by "Dateline NBC"

"I was amazed Aruba didn't have any regularly scheduled shows for islanders and vacationers to enjoy a fun night out," he explained. "As soon as I had the idea of putting together a revue, I have been getting text messages, calls and e-mails from dozens of top comics who were thrilled with



Chuck Nice

the idea of joining me for a week on Aruba."

Premiering with Ray Ellin in his 90-minute comedy revue will be popular comedian

Brian Scott McFadden, "one of the hottest stand up comics working today," and Chuck Nice, "a 14-year veteran of stand up comedy with a rich history in television and radio."

McFadden has appeared on "Late Night with David Letterman" and the "The Late Show with Craig Ferguson" on CBS. Audience will soon enjoy his comic timing on the big screen as he appears with Ben Stiller in a remake of "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty."

A versatile stage actor, McFadden has performed such demanding roles as "Hamlet," and is particularly known for his remarkable repertoire of



Brian Scott McFadden

authentic accents and impressions. He has voiced characters in the popular "Ice Age" animated film series.

Continued on page 5

More than something new... It's the All New Kia Cerato available now

Ex-Audi designer Peter Schreyer has been putting a refreshing new styling stamp on the modern Kias and the latest to benefit is the firm's Corolla fighter.

What you see here is the all-new 2013 Kia Cerato.

Created under the guidance of design chief Peter Schreyer – the man responsible for turning Kia into a global style leader – the new Cerato represents the latest evolution of the design language already applied to the striking Kia Optima sedan, Rio city car and Sportage SUV.

Sporting a sleeker profile with futuristic and dynamic styling, the all-new Cerato sedan is longer, lower and wider than the current car, with an extended wheelbase. The exterior features LED front and rear lamps, while there are promises of "improved quality, upgraded equipment, a more spacious cabin and a revised engine line-up that delivers class-leading fuel economy."

The new small sedan features a prominent 'tiger nose'

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Official program for the day that will see Willem-Alexander crowned King



Excitement is building in the Netherlands as its royal family prepares to make history. In a little more than three weeks, Prince Willem-Alexander will

officially take over his mother, Queen Beatrix's role as head of the Dutch monarchy. Now royal watchers have been given their first glimpse of the program for the day which will herald the start of this new reign.

The Dutch royal household have released an outline of the abdication and investiture program — subject to change — ahead of the momentous occasion on April 30.

Festivities will begin on the evening of 29 April, when Beatrix hosts her final dinner as Queen for members of the royal family and other VIP guests at the Rijksmuseum.

Continued on page 5

My Big Sister Program - a grand success!

Last year Minister of Economic and Social Affairs, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar introduced a so-called "My Big Sister" program as a pilot program. Four schools participated with a total of 13 girls. Feedback from this pilot program is overwhelming both from teachers as well as from the parents of the girls.

The program made a significant difference in the academic performance of each of the girls.

The Minister is convinced that now is the ideal moment to launch this program allowing more girls to participate. Hence, her appeal to the community to express their willingness to serve as "My Big Sister" for young girls.

The program is specifically designed to provide encouragement and guidance, to teach young girls how to set goals, improve their self-

confidence level and to improve their family relations.

The primary goal of the program is to introduce young girls between ages 10 to 13 to a professional lady of 25 years or older. The girls in the program will be identified by the school. Schools know best which girls need extra guidance in order to achieve their maximum potential.

The assigned "Big Sister" will become the role model in the life of the girl, helping the girl to avoid the pitfalls in life. They will help the young girl to mature into a responsible adult, well adapted and oriented to focus on giving back to her family and community.

The "Big Sister's" responsibility will be to develop a positive friendship with the youngster, become a person of confidence, and have suf-



ficient energy and time for activities together. This ought to be a responsible, stable person with patience and self-respect. The "Big Sister" will invest quality time...at least 6 hours per month with the young girl, always acting with integrity.

The parents of the young girl must consent (in writing) for their daughter to participate in the program. Parents and the "Big Sister" will agree to times and places for outings with the young girl with her "Big Sister." The Big Sister does not remove the responsibilities of the parents, nor are they to serve as babysitters for the parents. Neither is there any financial support expected from the "Big Sister."

Obviously, the "little sister" also has her share of responsibilities in the program. Her behavior must be respectful to her "Big Sister" at all times when they together.

The Minister is pleased to announce the second phase of the "My Big Sister" program, which will include boys as well. These types of programs are known in other parts of the world. Aruba cannot be left out. We have the potential for impacting the lives of our children positively through such a program.

For more information, please contact CEDEHM at 588-1391 to find out how you can become part of this very worthy program.



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Tim surprises Jennifer...

Continued from page 1



Tim and Jennifer said "We have been back every year and usually bring a new couple or 2 with us each year to enjoy the friendliness of the island. Everyone we have brought over once has returned on their own 2-3 times after. I am beginning to feel like I work for the Aruba Tourism Authorities Pittsburgh office in the United States" stated Tim. They now own 2 weeks at the Divi Golf Villas and look forward all year to their return. "We have tried other islands but we always return to the place where our love has been as warm as the Aruban breezes. We look forward to celebrating many more anniversaries here"

The couple would like to thank Diane and her husband Kees for their wonderful help and professionalism with coordinating Tim's dream renewal of vows surprise, from the "welcome" cheese platter, fruit platter, and bottle of Jennifer's favorite wine, all from Super Food, and the tropical flower arrangement and bouquet and boutonniere from Jardin Caribe, all waiting for them in their room when they arrived on the island, to the beautiful ceremony on the beach, and the dinner reservation at the Red Parrot that evening.

Photos by Sabine Goeretz and Diane Keijzer



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Glitz Casino welcomes senior citizens for a fun outing

Aruba's newest and glitziest casino, Glitz, in the La Cabana Beach Resort, opened its doors in December to provide some excitement to the northern Eagle Beach area. According to GM Chris Scott, the casino takes their philosophy of corporate social responsibility very seriously, and has plans for a number of initiatives to "give back to the community."

One of them took place yesterday morning, as casino staff and managers were very pleased to welcome senior citizens of the Flor di Brazil group, for a couple of hours of entertainment on the house. This is the second such group they have hosted since opening their doors, and Shift Manager Leslie Kuiperi and all his staff truly enjoyed arranged this fun time for Aruba's seniors, as well as their company.

Glitz Casino provided complementary snacks and beverages for their guests, as well as \$10 in credit in the dozens of glittering, exciting slot machines. Traditional musical entertainment on the Caha di Orgal, with Nelson Sprok, made for a lively, very Aruban morning.



Special guests are served snacks with a smile



Glitz GM Chris Scott welcomes members of Flor di Brazil



Flor di Brazil Director Lucia Wever with Nelson Sprok and Leslie Kuiperi

Flor di Brazil Director Lucia Wever expressed her gratitude for the warm reception and personal attention to her clients by the Glitz Casino management and staff. She commented on how very much her group of 68 seniors enjoyed the morning and the special attention afforded them. "They all need a little special attention now and then, and the Glitz Casino people were exceptionally warm and welco-



Shift Manager Leslie Kuiperi with Flor di Brazil staffer Betty Bislik

ming. We thank them so much for this kind and generous gesture."

Rosalie Klein



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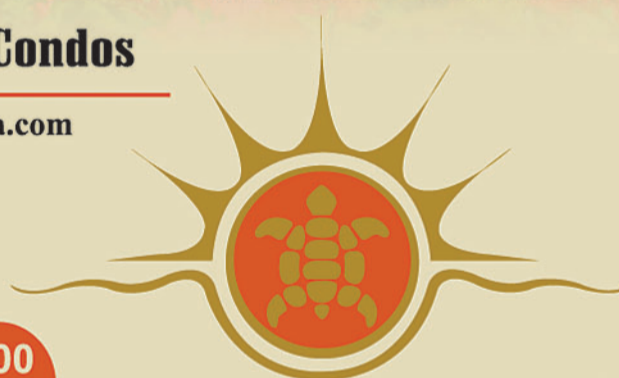
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Three veteran comedians...

Continued from page 2

Right now he is cutting a CD of his hilarious original routine "What a Woman Wants."

For eight years, Chuck Nice was the comedy relief on the New York airwaves for the "Radio Chick Show." He hosted his own television show on HGTV "Home Strange Home," while simultaneously appearing regularly on NBC's "Today Show." He appears regularly on Vh-1's "Best Week Ever," WE TV's "Cinematherapy," CBS' "Early Show," "The Mike & Juliet Show," Tru TV's "World's Dumbest Criminals," MSNBC contributor, "The Insider," and done his own one hour specials on the Discovery Network titled "Proof."

These three very busy and talented comedians will be on stage in the Cabaret Royale at the Westin Aruba Resort for only one week, opening on Wednesday, April 10; the last performance will be on Tuesday, April 16.

"I am very passionate about Aruba and this show," Ray told TMN. "I see a huge range of audiences, and I and my colleagues have the sort of material and humor that will appeal to audiences whether they are from New York, Chicago, Wyoming...or Aruba, Colombia or Holland. It is universal. We all have husbands, wives, children girlfriends, boyfriends...there is a wealth of funny material there, and we love to make people laugh. Between the three of us, we have a great synergy, and the audience will feel the energy and excitement in the show."

Tickets for the limited run of Aruba Ray's Comedy Revue are \$39 and for sale at the concierge desk in the Westin Resort in Palm Beach. Each ticket has a \$40 match play coupon printed on the back, which audience can then play at the Palm Beach Casino in the resort after the show. Doors open at 8:30 and the show starts promptly at 9:00 PM.

This is great news for Aruba and lovers of good stand-up comedy. Ray Ellin advises it is material for mature audiences, but precocious teenagers are allowed with the family. He leaves this to the discretion of their parents.

Rosalie Klein

The day that will see Willem-Alexander crowned King

Continued from page 3

The following morning, at 10, her abdication ceremony will begin in Amsterdam's Royal Palace. In front of dignitaries, members of parliament and her family, Beatrix will give a short address before the Director of the Queen's Office reads aloud the instruction of abdication, which the Queen will assent to with her signature.

At 10.30, His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Majesty Queen Maxima will appear with Beatrix, now Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix, on the balcony of the

palace to greet their people. Beatrix and Willem-Alexander will both give a short address which will be followed by the national anthem. The new Princess of Orange, Amalia, and her sister Princess Alexia and Princess Ariane will then join their parents and their grandmother on the balcony.

The royals will retire inside the Palace until 13.50, when Princess Beatrix and other members of the family process to the Nieuwe Kerk for the official inauguration — the Dutch specifically use the term

'inauguration' rather than the more common 'coronation'. At 14.00, the King and the main cortege will make their way to the 15th-century church.

The ceremony will take place from 14.00 until 15.30, during which the new king will deliver an address and be sworn in. The party will then return to the Royal Palace, where a reception will be held for royal and foreign guests and other dignitaries, held from 16.30 until 18.00.

At 19.30, Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima will be

treated to a performance of The Song for the King, an anthem written specially for the occasion, before the couple take part in a water pageant with their three daughters. They will sail from the EYE Film Institute, past the Oever Park and the Kop van Java. At several points along the route, they will be treated to a festive displays, including a 'mini sail'. The celebrations will conclude with a gathering hosted by the Prime Minister on behalf of the Council of Ministers for the Kingdom.

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US posts \$5 mn reward for Ugandan warlord Kony

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States yesterday offered \$5 million for the capture of Lord's Resistance Army chief Joseph Kony, one of the world's most wanted men, and posted rewards for three other rebel leaders evading trial for war crimes.

The announcement came just as Uganda and Washington said they had been forced to suspend their two-year hunt for Kony in the jungles of the Central African Republic, after rebels seized power in Bangui.

The LRA, a Ugandan rebel group, has waged a brutal insurgency, accused of mutilations and child abductions for two decades across four countries.

Kony -- a self-proclaimed prophet who claims his rebels are fighting to establish a government based on the Biblical Ten Commandments -- and other LRA leaders face charges

of war crimes and crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court.

Kony's name was added to the State Department's war crimes rewards program along with fellow LRA members Okot Odhiambo and Dominic Ongwen, and Sylvestre Mudacumura from the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), in the hopes that the men would be brought to justice.

The LRA "for almost 20 years has tormented and terrorized children across Uganda, the DRC, the Central African Republic and South Sudan. It has to stop," US Secretary of State John Kerry said.

But he admitted Kony and his cronies would "not be easy to find."

"The LRA is broken down into small bands of rebels, scattered throughout dense jungle, hidden by dense

canopy, controlling territory through tactics of fear and intimidation," he said in a column in the online Huffington Post.

The LRA was "one of the world's most brutal armed groups," Ambassador for Global Criminal Justice Stephen Rapp told reporters, unveiling the rewards.

"We act today so that there can be justice for the innocent men, women and children, who've been subjected to mass murder, amputation, enslavement and other atrocities," he said.

"Accountability is a key pillar of the United States atrocity prevention initiative."

The United Nations says about 450,000 people have been displaced by LRA attacks in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Uganda and South Sudan.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

N. Korea approves nuclear strike on United States

SEOUL (AFP) - North Korea dramatically escalated its warlike rhetoric yesterday, warning that it had authorised plans for nuclear strikes on targets in the United States.

"The moment of explosion is approaching fast," the North Korean military said, warning that war could break out "today or tomorrow."

Pyongyang's latest pronouncement came as Washington scrambled to reinforce its Pacific missile defences, preparing to send ground-based interceptors to Guam and dispatching two Aegis class destroyers to the region.

Tension was also high on the North's heavily-fortified border with South Korea, after Kim Jong-Un's isolated regime barred South Koreans from entering a Seoul-funded joint industrial park on its side of the frontier.

In a statement published by the state KCNA news agency, the Korean People's Army general staff warned Washington that US threats would be "smashed by... cutting-edge smaller, lighter and diversified nuclear strike means".

Last month, North Korea threatened a "pre-emptive" nuclear strike against the United States, and last week its supreme army command ordered strategic rocket units to combat status.

But, while Pyongyang has successfully carried out test nuclear detonations, most experts think it is not yet capable of mounting a device on a ballistic missile capable of striking US bases or territory.

Mounting tension in the region could however trigger incidents on the tense and heavily-militarised border between North and South Korea.

Officials: Record floods in Argentina kill 54

LA PLATA (AFP) - Massive flooding killed 54 people in and around Buenos Aires, Argentine officials said yesterday, with most of the victims being found after a second day of record rainfall hit the area.

At least 46 people died as flood waters hit the nearby city of La Plata about 60 kilometers (40 miles) south of Buenos Aires, following historic rains that swept through the streets, submerging cars as people cowered on rooftops.

"The bodies began to appear as the water subsided," said Governor Daniel Scioli, as officials confirmed the death toll.

The fatalities in La Plata, administrative center of the province where Buenos Aires is located, followed at least eight others in Argentina's capital on Tuesday, when a storm knocked out power lines and downed trees.

President Christina Kirchner made a surprise visit to the region yesterday, surveying the

devastation by helicopter.

A record 40 centimeters (16 inches) of rain fell on La Plata in a two-hour period late Tuesday into yesterday, officials said, knocking out phone lines and leaving about half the city in the dark. In Buenos Aires, more than 15 centimeters (six inches) of rain -- an April record -- fell between late Monday and early Tuesday, the weather service said.

Flood waters reached two meters (six feet) in some places, turning roadways in La Plata -- a city of 900,000 inhabitants -- into a raging river.

In nearby Tolosa, meanwhile, 50 automobiles were rendered immobile after high water encircled part of the town, cutting off roads and preventing authorities from rescuing stranded motorists and passengers. Authorities said around 2,500 people are still unable to return home as they wait for flood waters to subside, and have taken refuge in emergency shelters.

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International News

Taliban kill 44 in attack on Afghan court: officials

HERAT (AFP) - Taliban militants stormed an Afghan court on Wednesday, killing at least 44 people in a bid to free insurgents standing trial, officials said, in the deadliest attack for more than a year.

It was not immediately clear whether the accused men had escaped the court complex in the western town of Farah, although a hospital doctor said one prisoner was among those being treated for injuries.

The multiple bomb and gun assault will raise further questions about the Afghans' ability to secure the country as NATO winds down its combat mission in the war-torn country by the end of next year.

The death toll was the highest in Afghanistan from a single attack since a Shiite Muslim shrine was bombed in Kabul in December 2011, killing 80 people.

"In total, 34 civilians and 12 (Afghan) security forces have been killed in the attack. We have also discovered the bodies of eight attackers, more than 100 people have also been injured."

The governor added a group of Taliban had been brought for trial Wednesday,

without giving further details.

Taliban militants fighting the US-backed central government claimed responsibility.

"Our fighters attacked several government buildings in Farah according to their planned tactic. They conducted the attack with small arms and grenades," the group said on its website.

"The fighting happened after information that (President Hamid) Karzai's administration wanted to try several fighters in a cruel way in this court."

Taliban fighters frequently target government compounds equipped with suicide vests, rockets and machine-guns.

Wakil Ahmad, a doctor at Farah hospital, said medics were treating scores of wounded including two judges and one court prisoner.

Abdul Rahman Zhawadon, spokesman for the governor of Farah, said the area was sealed off as firing continued through the day and some attackers had also entered a Kabul Bank office attached to the court building.

The Taliban insurgency has raged since a 2001 US-led invasion ousted their five-year regime from Kabul.

Dutch city wants to cultivate own cannabis

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The southern Dutch city of Eindhoven has come up with a proposal it believes will curb the illegal supply of cannabis to the city's so-called coffee shops: they suggest growing it themselves.

Cultivation and selling of cannabis are technically illegal

in the Netherlands but in practice both are tolerated.

The Dutch government in November last year dropped a controversial "weed pass" law aimed at barring foreign tourists from cannabis cafes and to ask locals to register in a database.

The scrapping gave Dutch

cities like Eindhoven the freedom to decide themselves whether to bar drug travellers.

In a bid to clamp down on supplies associated with larger-scale crime, Opstelten in early February asked councils to make suggestions about the small-scale growing of marijuana.

According to Van Gijssel, large-scale cannabis cultivation happens in the scenic southern Eindhoven region with "the heavy presence of organised crime".

Instead Eindhoven has suggested growing its own weed under supervision, thus "diluting the influence of organised crime", and making sure the cannabis was of good quality.

Van Gijssel proposed that the pilot project should run for a period of three years.

But finding a solution is complex. According to Van de Sande, "there cannot be legal cultivation of cannabis as it is contrary to Dutch law and international treaties," on drug prevention.

haviour.

North Korea informed Seoul in the morning that it was stopping the daily movement of South Koreans into the Seoul-funded Kaesong complex -- 10 kilometres (six miles) inside the North side of the border.

However, it added that the 861 South Koreans currently in the zone were at liberty to leave.

Any move on Kaesong -- established in 2004 and a crucial source of hard currency for North Korea -- carries enormous significance.

Neither of the Koreas has allowed previous crises to significantly affect the complex, which is the only surviving example of inter-Korean cooperation and seen as a bellwether for stability on the Korean peninsula.

South Korea's defence ministry said it had contingency plans that included "military action" in case the safety of its citizens working there was threatened.

The latest North Korean move fitted into a cycle of escalating tensions that has seen Pyongyang threaten missile and nuclear strikes against the United States and its ally South Korea in response to UN sanctions and joint military drills.

US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Wednesday that the North's threats and recent actions represent a "real and clear danger" to the United States as well as its allies South Korea and Japan.

China, the North's sole major ally, appealed for "calm" from all sides, repeating Beijing's oft-declared position.

"Under the current circumstances China believes that all parties should exercise calm and restraint," foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei said.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov said he was "worried" by the situation, saying even a simple human error could cause the crisis to spiral out of control.

Describing the Kaesong ban as "very regrettable", South Korea's Unification Ministry urged the North to normalise access "immediately".

It added that 33 South Koreans had returned from Kaesong, with hundreds staying on to keep their companies running smoothly. Many routinely stay for periods of several days.

Around 53,000 North Koreans work at 120 South Korean plants at the complex, which was still operating normally Wednesday.

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N. Korea blocks access to key industrial zone

SEOUL (AFP) - North Korea blocked access to a key joint industrial zone with South Korea on Wednesday -- a sharp escalation in a military crisis that Washington blamed on Pyongyang's "reckless" be-



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China reports another death from H7N9 bird flu

SHANGHAI (AFP) - A man in the Chinese province of Zhejiang has died of the H7N9 strain of bird flu, state media said Wednesday, bringing the country's total number of cases to nine and the total deaths at-

tributed to the virus to three since the first human cases.

Chinese authorities are trying to determine how exactly the new variety of bird flu infected people, but say there is no evidence yet of human-to-

human transmission.

China is considered one of the countries at greater risk from bird flu because it is one of the world's biggest poultry producers and many chickens in rural areas are kept close to humans.

Health & Living

WHO urges more effort to beat high blood pressure

GENEVA (AFP) - Individuals and governments need to step up their efforts to battle high blood pressure, which is estimated to affect more than one in three adults aged over 25, the World Health Organisation said.

Around a billion people around the globe suffer from the condition, also known as hypertension, the United Nations health agency said.

The condition is one of the most important contributors to heart disease and stroke, which together make up the world's number one cause of premature death and disability.

Researchers estimate that high blood pressure contributes to nearly 9.4 million deaths from cardiovascular disease each year, the WHO said.

It also increases the risk of conditions such as kidney failure and blindness.

Detecting high blood pressure is the first step in preventing and controlling it, the agency underlined.

People can cut the risks by consuming less salt, eating a balanced diet, engaging in regular physical activity, avoiding tobacco use and cutting down on drinking, it said.

According to WHO data, the prevalence of hypertension is highest in Africa, where it affects 46 percent of adults, while the lowest prevalence is in the Americas, where 35 percent have it.

High-income countries overall have a lower prevalence of hypertension, 35 percent of adults, than their low- and middle-income counterparts, where 40 percent are affected.

That difference is thanks to targeted health policies and better access to care, the WHO said.



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Sci-Tech

Canadian scientists charged with smuggling germs

OTTAWA (AFP) - Canadian federal police on Wednesday charged two former government scientists with allegedly trafficking in dangerous and highly contagious germs.

Klaus Nielsen and Wei Ling Yu, former researchers at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), are accused of attempting to export harmful pathogens that could infect humans and livestock to China.

Nielsen was apprehended as he was heading to the Ottawa airport last October with 17 vials of live brucella bacteria, which can cause infections of bovine reproductive organs, joints and mammary glands, as well as infertility.

It mostly affects cattle, deer and horses, but can also be passed on to humans and cause flu-like symptoms. There is no vaccine and the only way to control its spread

is to cull animals suspected of being infected.

Nielsen was reportedly praised in 2006 for helping to develop a quick test for detecting brucellosis in cattle.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said he and Yu were allegedly making "unlawful efforts to commercialize (the) intellectual property belonging to the CFIA and a private commercial partner."

US company Diachemix currently manufactures and licenses the test.

Nielsen is to appear in an Ottawa court on April 17 to face charges of breach of trust, failing to obtain an export permit, transporting dangerous goods, and violations under Canada's Human Pathogens and Toxins Act.

A warrant has been issued for Yu's arrest but she is believed to have already fled the country.

Total of 66 Tibet landslide bodies recovered: media



BEIJING (AFP) - Chinese rescue crews have recovered a total of 66 bodies in the aftermath of a huge landslide in Tibet that buried more than 80 mine workers, state media said Wednesday.

A total of 83 people were buried on Friday when a vast volume of rock crashed down a mountainside east of the Tibetan capital Lhasa, burying a mineworkers' camp.

The latest number of recovered bodies, reported by China's official news agency Xinhua, would mean that 17 were still missing.

Rescue operations resumed Tuesday morning after

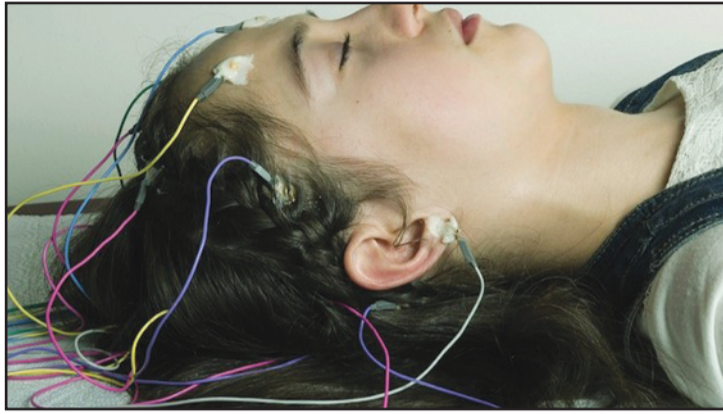
being suspended a day before due to fears of more landslides in the area.

The chances of finding any survivors are regarded as slim, state media has reported. Experts from the ministry of land and resources were investigating the cause of the landslide.

Mountainous regions of Tibet are prone to such disasters, which can be exacerbated by heavy mining activity.

In recent years China has discovered huge mineral resources in Tibet, including tens of millions of tonnes of copper, lead and zinc, and billions of tonnes of iron ore.

Brain stimulation may treat cocaine addiction: study



PARIS (AFP) - Studies in rats have shown that stimulating a sleepy brain region in cocaine addicts can diminish craving for the drug, a technique that should also work in humans, scientists said Wednesday.

A team in the United States trained rats to "self-administer" cocaine by pressing two levers.

After several weeks of training, the rats were given a mild foot shock whenever self-administering, causing 70 percent of them to give up the drug, the researchers wrote in the journal Nature.

But a "compulsive" minority kept coming back, just like human addicts.

The team measured brain activity in the prelimbic cortex, a part of the prefrontal cortex involved in impulse control, in both sets of rats.

They found that the activity was decreased in both groups, but markedly more so in the compulsive group.

When the researchers "turned on" the inactive neurons using optogenetic stimulation, the compulsive cocaine-seeking behaviour stopped, author Antonello

Bonci of the National Institute on Drug Abuse in Maryland told AFP.

Conversely, they could also turn the non-compulsive rats into coke fiends by inhibiting the neurons.

"This new research ... shows that stimulation to that part of the brain decreases addictive behaviours such as cocaine seeking," Bonci said by email.

He said the findings held promise for humans, noting previous studies that have shown reduced activity in the prefrontal cortex of cocaine users.

In humans, however, a non-invasive type of stimulation would be used such as transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), in which magnetic pulses stimulate a small area on the surface of the brain.

By contrast, the optogenetic stimulation used with rats involves implanting fibre optics in an animal's brain to excite or inhibit brain cells in response to light stimuli.

Non-invasive brain stimulation techniques such as TMS are already used to treat a variety of conditions in humans,

including depression.

The same brain region may not be involved in addiction to all drugs, or in all people, Bonci noted.

Europe readies for solar storm risks

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Europe launched its first space weather coordination centre Wednesday to raise the alarm for possible satellite-sizzling solar storms that also threaten astronauts in orbit, plane passengers and electricity grids on Earth.

Though impossible to predict, a worst-case scenario mega-storm can happen at any time, leaving the world without Internet, telephones, television, electricity and air and rail transport for days on end.

Limited precautions can be taken, but early warning is key, say experts at the European Space Agency (ESA) which runs the centre from Brussels.

Earth's atmosphere and magnetosphere protect the planet from radiation released during solar flares and geomagnetic storms -- some of the most severe forms of space weather.

Smaller eruptions usually have little noticeable effect -- perhaps slight problems with car navigation systems or mobile phones.

15 FOODS THAT BOOST YOUR METABOLISM



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PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

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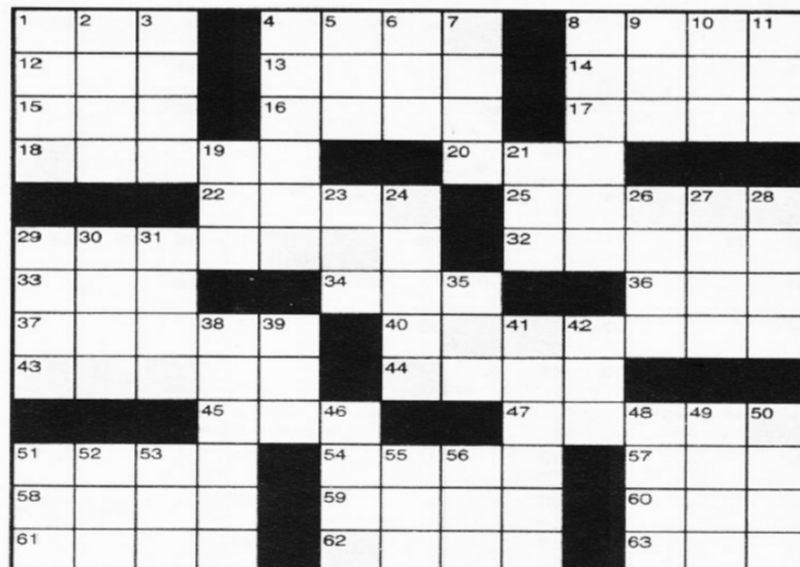
1. Dig in
4. Cherrystone, e.g.
8. Musical sign
12. Pair
13. Engage
14. Zeus's wife
15. Dentists' group (abbr.)
16. City dwellings (abbr.)
17. Make money
18. Gold-loving monarch
20. Laughing sound
22. Cars from Munich
25. Not right
29. Use a crystal ball
32. Lauder of cosmetics
33. "Here ___ again!" (2 wds.)
34. Hive resident
36. Vietnamese New Year
37. Horses' gaits
40. Sentence enders
43. Actors Rogen and Green
44. Robert ___ Leonard
45. Home (abbr.)
47. Family men
51. Sandwich store
54. Tourist ___
57. Tavern drink
58. Tel ___
59. "Jane ___" (Brontë book)
60. Damp and cold
61. TV style guru Berkus
62. Equal
63. Double curve

DOWN

1. Dutch cheese town
2. German auto
3. Kermit's cousin
4. Fissures
5. Back talk, slangily
6. Paintings
7. Connect
8. "Bottoms up!"
9. Grassy area
10. Miscalculate
11. Ardent enthusiast
19. Actor Vigoda
21. Lamb's mom
23. Spider's net
24. Filters through
26. Sgt. Snorkel's pooch
27. Destitution
28. Receives
29. Tantrums
30. Hideous giant
31. Foundation
35. Shoe width
38. Flourish
39. Opp. of NNW
41. Missy Elliott,

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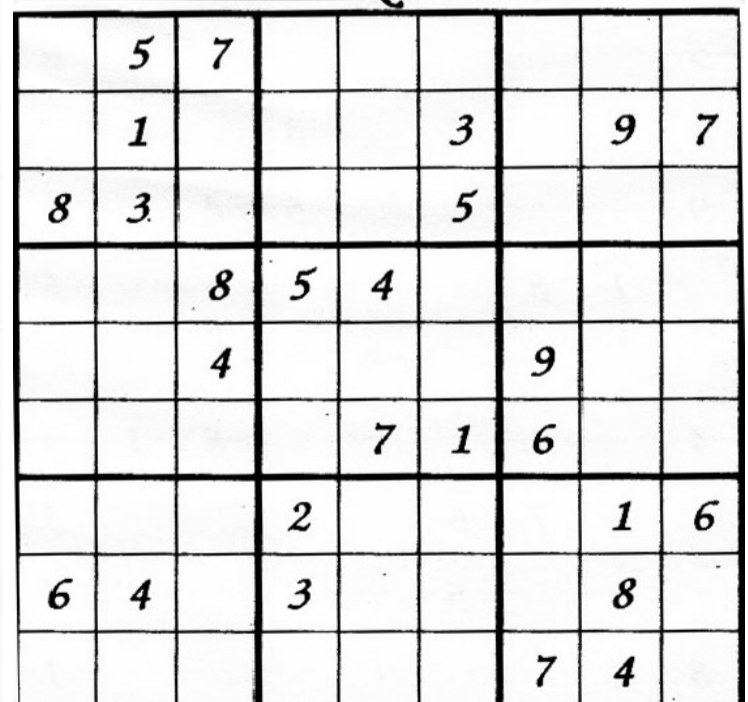
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	7	8	9	1	2	6	3	4
6	8	2	5	3	1	7	9	4
9	1	3	4	6	7	5	8	2
7	5	9	1	2	8	6	3	4
8	6	7	3	9	4	1	2	5
2	4	1	6	5	8	9	7	3
1	9	4	5	7	2	6	8	3
4	6	5	8	9	7	1	2	3
3	2	8	9	1	6	4	5	7

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Aruba's One And Only Department Store

LA Linda N.V.

Mainstreet Downtown Aruba

1 Floor

Menswear,
boyswear and more

2 Floor

Ladies, girls
and baby wear

3 Floor

Textile & notions,
Article for kitchen,
Bath and bedroom and more.

4 Floor

Office, Luggages and
sporting gear.
Coming soon Cafeteria!Best
Brands
Best
PricesFor the
Whole
FamilyAruba's
Biggest
Store

Samsonite

Tel: 5822120 Caya G.F Betico Croes 3 In the beginning of the mainstreet.

Mainstreet Downtown Aruba

Finance

Oil prices dive on lofty US supplies

NEW YORK (AFP) - Oil prices slumped Wednesday after new data showed lofty supplies of US crude, suggesting weak demand in the world's biggest economy.

US crude benchmark West Texas Intermediate for May delivery closed at \$94.45 a barrel, down \$2.74, or 2.8 percent.

European benchmark Brent oil for May delivery settled at \$107.11, down \$3.58 a barrel, or 3.2 percent.

The sharp declines came as the weekly inventory report from the US Energy Information Administration showed US crude reserves rose 2.7 million barrels to 388.6 million barrels.

That was far bigger than market expectations of a gain of 1.5 million barrels, according to analysts polled by Dow Jones Newswires.

The report also showed only a modest decline of 600,000 barrels of gasoline stocks, slightly more than the draw seen by analysts.

Stephen Schork, an analyst with the Schork Group, attributed the drop in crude oil to a retreat in gasoline prices in recent days.

The US private sector added just 158,000 jobs in March, according to payrolls firm ADP, well below the estimate of 197,000 seen by analysts.

Growth in the US services sector also slowed in March, according to data from the Institute for Supply Management. The ISM said the non-manufacturing purchasing managers index fell to 54.4 in March, down from 56 in February.

"The inventory report is overlapping with a little bit of economic uncertainty" after the weak ISM report, said Gene McGilligan, analyst and broker at Tradition Energy.

Bart Melek, head of commodity strategy at TD Securities, said the oil market was also reacting to speculation of a possible agreement between Western powers and Iran over Iran's nuclear program.

Tensions with Iran have boosted oil prices in recent months due to concerns over Iran's threat to blockade the Strait of Hormuz, a critical transport waterway for oil.

US stocks dropped Wednesday after weak economic indicators halted the market's upward momentum of recent weeks.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average sank 111.66 (0.76 percent) to 14,550.35.

The broad-based S&P 500 drooped 16.56 (1.05 percent) to 1,553.69, while the Nasdaq Composite Index gave up 36.26 (1.11 percent) at 3,218.60.

The losses came one day after both the Dow and the S&P 500 recorded new all-time closing records.

Obama to hand back five percent of own salary

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama plans to return five percent of his \$400,000 annual salary to US government coffers out of sympathy for federal workers furloughed as a result of massive budget cuts.

"The salary for the President, as with members of Congress, is set by law and cannot be changed," a White House official said Wednesday on condition of anonymity.

"However, the President has

decided that to share in the sacrifice being made by public servants across the federal government that are affected by the sequester, he will contribute a portion of his salary back to the Treasury."

Obama will cut checks every month to account for the impact of the budget cuts, known as the sequester, which came into force on March 1.

The White House has warned that thousands of federal government workers could

be furloughed, see salaries hit or even be laid off because of arbitrary budget cuts of \$85 billion.

The measure came into force because Obama and Republican lawmakers were unable to agree a deal on cutting the US budget deficit.

Obama is said to have chosen the five percent figure as it is equal to the cut being inflicted on non-exempt, non-discretionary government spending.

Ex-Goldman trader charged in \$8 billion rogue trade

NEW YORK (AFP) - A former trader at Goldman Sachs pleaded guilty Wednesday to fraud linked to a scheme to hide an unauthorized \$8-billion futures bet he made at the US banking giant.

Matthew Marshall Taylor surrendered to the Federal Bureau of Investigation early in the day, then entered his guilty plea in Manhattan federal court. He could face a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, but prosecutors recommended a much lighter 33 to

41 months as a result of the plea deal.

The trader was on Goldman Sachs Capital Structure Franchise Trading desk in New York with a salary of \$150,000 and expecting a bonus of \$1.6 million in 2007, the year that he turned rogue, prosecutors say.

In November 2007, after he lost a "significant portion" of profits he'd earned in his account that year, Taylor was told by superiors to scale back his risk-taking and informed

his bonus would be cut back.

It was then that he embarked on an unauthorized trading spree in S&P 500 E-mini futures that racked up an \$8.3 billion position -- not only exceeding his own risk limits, but the limits for all the other traders on his desk, prosecutors said in the criminal information.

He then tried to cover up his trades with false records "to conceal and understate the true size" of his position, the criminal information said.

France's Hollande under fire in ex-minister tax scandal

PARIS (AFP) - French President Francois Hollande was forced to defend himself Wednesday as critics questioned how much he knew about a secret foreign bank account that belonged to an ex-minister facing tax fraud charges.

Jerome Cahuzac -- the minister responsible for cracking down on tax evasion until he resigned two weeks ago -- was charged on Tuesday with "laundering the proceeds of tax fraud" after he admitted to having a foreign bank account containing some 600,000

euros (\$770,000), following weeks of denials.

Hollande appeared on national television Wednesday to address the scandal, vowing a new law within weeks on the "publication and control" of the wealth of ministers and parliamentarians.

He said he knew nothing of the foreign account and that Cahuzac "did not benefit from any protection" from the government.

The president had been quick to condemn Cahuzac's actions, but critics have pounced on the scandal, saying

top officials must have been either lying to protect the ex-minister or naive enough to believe him.

The head of the main opposition right-wing UMP party, Jean-Francois Cope, demanded Hollande explain the scandal to the French public.

Marine Le Pen, the leader of the far-right National Front, said the entire government should resign and new parliamentary elections held.

If convicted, Cahuzac faces up to five years in prison and a potential fine of up to 375,000 euros.

YESTERDAY'S
Crossword Answer

E	T	C	H		O	F	T		G	U	M	S
S	H	O	E		T	R	A		U	T	A	H
T	O	S	S		I	I	I		S	E	T	H
			T	A	S		L	E	T			
A	D	R	O	P		C	O	L	O	N	E	L
H	A	U	N	T		I	R	K		A	V	A
E	N	D		Q	T	S			V	I	N	
A	C	E		D	U	E		W	R	E	C	K
D	E	R	I	V	E	D		S	A	L	T	Y
		F	D	R		O	W	N				
E	V	A	N		I	M	P		K	I	T	T
L	O	G	O		E	E	R		L	A	R	A
F	L	A	T		S	A	Y		E	N	I	D

Taj Mahal Restaurant, an authentic culinary excursion



When Bharat Shah, originally from India, but now a successful businessman in California, put on a spectacular wedding in Aruba for his daughter Lisa and her groom Kalpesh, they welcomed hundreds of friends and relatives from around the world, including the "old country."

When all the wedding guests had finally arrived in Aruba, Bharat hosted an official welcome party along the shore in Palm Beach, and he chose to have it catered by Taj Mahal restaurant, he was that impressed by their cuisine.

If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal," discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

A taste-testing crew from THE MORNING NEWS chose a selection of their singular starters and two main courses with saffron rice, served family style, which provided a fine example of the versatility of their chef.

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb. Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on

which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal.

Our group also added an appetizer of crunchy Samosas, the Indian form of a potato knish, served with either cilantro or sweet and sour sauce. A platter of their Jhinga, large, crispy-fried shrimp in a delicate batter is ample enough to serve as a main course, though featured on their appetizer menu.

As we mentioned, main courses are served family style, in beautiful little pots that sit upon a candle to keep them warm. Our group sampled the "Mutton Saagwala," also known as "Lamb Shag" which is cooked in a thick sauce of yogurt and spinach, and the "Fish Hara Masala," moist, tender chunks of fish in a rich sauce featuring cilantro as the main flavoring. This is offered in mild, medium and very spicy, we found the medium quite spicy enough for us; it left a tingle on the tongue.

The family style service allows everyone at the table to sample a bit of this and that, and we heartily recommend you do, to truly appreciate this authentic bit of India in Aruba. Open for lunch and dinner, Taj Mahal sports a cozy and intimate air-conditioned dining room and a small outdoor terrace for those that enjoy dining al fresco. They have an exotic dessert menu to match, but our group was too stuffed to partake; there was even enough left to box up and provide a lunch next day for the lucky first person to get to it!

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, across from Aruba's Numismatic Museum, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary; they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal! Call 588-4494 for reservations.

La Linda Department Store-where Aruba shops!



Calman and Anna Hochman

Though Aruba has its share of designer brand stores and shopping malls, ask almost any islander where they shop, and they will likely tell you "La Linda." Spread out over several specialty stores on the Caya Betico Croes, La Linda was Aruba's first and foremost department stores, where, for decades, one could find anything and everything, and after more than 70 years, still can make that claim.

It is also a distinctly family operation, with the personal touch and supervision of the Hochmans, who take their reputation for stocking "the best quality for the best price" very seriously. It all started with Calman Hochman, a Jewish Polish immi-

To this day, La Linda is particularly known for its huge fabrics and notions department, the first destination for many on an island where making your own clothes is still an everyday practice. Without question, the store offers the greatest diversity of selection in nearly every department, and they have now consolidated them all into one store; four floors containing a wealth of choices in clothing for men, women and children, house wares, bedding, sporting goods, luggage, shoes, jewelry, decorative items and more.

Jalme, as they continue to renovate and enlarge what had been only the men's store and warehouse in the past. Normally closed for a 2 hour lunch/siesta in the old island way, shoppers will soon find it open daily for the entire day, from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM, as they are on Saturday's, with a bright, charming eatery installed on the top floor.

La Linda is continually expanding their inventory, with their acquisitions department continually seeking out interesting, unique, and moderately priced goods from



Comfortable lounges for companions while shopping a vast selection

"The present store is a work in progress," asserts

all over the world, always with an eye towards quality. They pay particular attention to their Women's Department specializing in over-sized garments, stocking larger sizes exhibiting distinctive dash and style.

For travelers who have perhaps lost their luggage, they can offer a quick fix for all the family which won't break your budget, including some very stylish new suitcases.

A visit to La Linda and perusal of their interesting collection will make anyone understand why it has remained successful all these decades, and is still Aruba's favorite place to shop!



Unique, quality goods in all departments

grant who opened his first small shop with his Aruban wife Anna, carrying "a little bit of everything that anyone could need." This was before WWII, when the present head of the company, Jaime, hadn't even been born yet. Many of their sales help have also been with the store for over two decades, and "it is very much like family here," he admits. Their loyal patrons also look forward to being helped by shop girls who have become friends, knowing they will get great and honest service.



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Mobile phone turns 40, with little fanfare

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The mobile phone turned 40 on Wednesday, with no fanfare to mark the occasion in a market which seemed focused on new smartphones like the iPhone and a possible Facebook-themed device.

The first mobile call was placed April 3, 1973, by Motorola engineer Martin Cooper, head of a team working on mobile communication technologies.

Cooper made the call on Sixth Avenue in New York, before going into a press conference using a Motorola DynaTAC -- a device that weighed one kilogram, (2.2 pounds) and had a battery life



of 20 minutes, according to Motorola.

Cooper told the technology website The Verge last year that he placed the first call to a rival, Joel Engler of Bell Labs.

"To this day, he resents what Motorola did in those days,"

Cooper said.

"They thought that we were a gnat, an obstacle... we believed in competition and lots of players. And we also believed -- our religion was portables, because people are mobile. And here they were trying to make a car telephone and a monopoly on top of that. So that battle was the reason that we built that phone."

Cooper and his team were honored earlier this year with the Draper Prize by the National Academy of Engineering for their work.

In 40 years, the industry has come a long way. Research firm IDC predicts 900 million smartphones will be sold in 2013 -- along with roughly the same number of more basic feature phones.

And the phone has become a key advertising platform -- eMarketer said US mobile advertising spending grew 178 percent last year to \$4.11 billion, and spending is expected to rise a further 77.3 percent to \$7.29 billion in 2013.

Fallon to succeed Leno on US 'Tonight' show

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Veteran US late-night TV host Jay Leno will bow out after 22 years on the "Tonight Show" next year, making way for the young star Jimmy Fallon, NBC announced Wednesday. Confirming weeks of reports, the broadcaster said production of the iconic show will move from Los Angeles to New York, where Fallon's "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" is already made. Sixty-



two year-old Leno's relations with NBC have been strained of late after the burly TV host made a series of gags in his opening monologues about the network's poor ratings, and his bosses. The swap will be the second time Leno has left the "Tonight Show" in five years, after his botched 2009 replacement by Conan O'Brien triggered a ratings slump, leading to his return within months.



KASUNGU (AFP) - : US Pop Star Madonna sits with her adopted Malawian son David Banda during a visit to Mkoko Primary School, one of the schools Madonna's Raising Malawi organization has built jointly with US organization BuildOn, during the visit of Madonna on April 2, 2013 in the region of Kasungu, central Malawi. Madonna, said to be the single largest international philanthropic donor to Malawi, also supports childcare in the country which is home to nearly a million children orphaned by AIDS.

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Sport

Tennis: Stosur, Wozniacki advance at Charleston



CHARLESTON (AFP) - Ex-champions Sam Stosur and Caroline Wozniacki overpowered their unseeded opponents Wednesday to reach the third round of the WTA Tour's Family Circle Cup.

The second-seeded Wozniacki breezed past Spaniard Silvia Soler-Espinosa 6-1, 6-1 just under an hour, while the third-seeded Aussie Stosur routed New Zealand's Marina Erakovic 6-1, 6-2 on the green clay at Daniel Island Tennis Center.

Wozniacki, who won here two years ago, only entered the tournament on the weekend after she and golfer boyfriend Rory McIlroy postponed a trip to Haiti.

Stosur won here in 2010 while Wozniacki claimed the title in 2011.

"I felt like I really served well and returned well today," Wozniacki said. "I'm pleased with that."

Meanwhile, American qual-

ifier Mallory Burdette surprised 15th-seeded 2009 champion Sabine Lisicki 3-6, 7-6 (7-5), 7-5 in their second round match.

Burdette advances to the third round where she will face world number one and reigning Charleston champ Serena Williams.

Also, No. 10 Julia Goerges of Germany held off Belarusian Olga Govortsova 6-2, 0-6, 6-3 and Canadian qualifier Eugenie Bouchard defeated No. 16 Brit Laura Robson 6-4, 3-6, 6-1. Bouchard will square off against Stosur next.

American Madison Keys eased into the round of 16 with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over qualifier compatriot Grace Min.

Keys will battle wild card Bethanie Mattek-Sands on Thursday.

Taking the court later on Wednesday is fifth seeded Venus Williams, who squares off against Monica Puig.



MANILA (AFP) - Philippine boxing hero Manny Pacquiao plans to fight again in September, with the bout likely to be staged outside the United States to avoid high taxes, his spokeswoman said yesterday. Negotiations are on-going for a rematch with Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez, who knocked Pacquiao out in his last fight in December, although the opponent and the venue are yet to be finalised, Rose Tamayo told AFP. Pacquiao, 34, is running for re-election as a congressman in next month's Philippine mid-term elections, and he is currently on the campaign trail. Pacquiao has won an unprecedented eight world titles in different weight divisions, and was until recently regarded by many as the best pound-for-pound boxer. But Pacquiao lost his World Boxing Organization welterweight crown in June last year in a controversial points decision to US fighter Timothy Bradley, then suffered his shock knockout defeat to Marquez. His losses prompted calls for him to retire, but Pacquiao has consistently signalled his intention to keep on fighting.



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Football: Real Madrid cruise to 3-0 win over Galatasaray

MADRID (AFP) - Real Madrid took a huge step towards reaching the Champions League semi-finals for the third consecutive year as they beat Galatasaray 3-0 at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Cristiano Ronaldo got the hosts off to the perfect start as he calmly chipped home from Mesut Ozil's wonderful through ball after just nine minutes.

Karim Benzema then doubled Madrid's lead on 29 minutes with a simple finish at the back post from Michael Essien's cross and Gonzalo



Higuain headed home the third 17 minutes from time to seal a highly satisfactory evening for the hosts.

Galatasaray manager Fatih Terim had signalled his intent to attack by naming the trio of Wesley Sneijder, Didier Drogba and Burak Yilmaz in his starting line-up.

However, as a result the

Turkish champions gifted way too much for Madrid to create in midfield, with Ozil in particular shining in the first-half.

And Galatasaray's night was summed up when Yilmaz saw a yellow card for diving when he was challenged by Sergio Ramos, meaning he will now miss the return-leg on Tuesday.

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NBA: Bryant shines as Shaq honored by Lakers



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Kobe Bryant's 19th career triple-double lifted the Los Angeles Lakers to a 101-81 triumph over the Dallas Mavericks

on Tuesday in a duel between teams fighting for a Western Conference playoff spot.

On a night when the Lakers honored former center Shaquille O'Neal by retiring his jersey No. 34 in an extended halftime ceremony, Bryant and his current teammates showed their minds were firmly fixed on the future and not the past.

Bryant scored 23 points with 11 rebounds and 11 assists. Big man Dwight Howard scored a game-high 24 points and also grabbed 12 rebounds and Earl Clark contributed a double-double off

the bench of 17 points and 12 rebounds.

Pau Gasol added 14 points, 10 rebounds and six assists and Steve Blake chipped in 11 points as the Lakers pulled level with the Utah Jazz for the eighth and final spot in the West -- although Utah own the tiebreaker between the two clubs.

The Mavericks were led by Chris Kaman, who scored 14 points before fouling out.

O.J. Mayo scored 12 points and Dirk Nowitzki, Darren Collison and Vince Carter scored 11 each.

The Lakers led by as many as 16 in the first half, and took a 55-40 lead into the interval.

After a halftime break prolonged for the tribute to O'Neal, the Lakers came out flat and Dallas closed the gap to 63-58 with three minutes left in the third quarter.

However, Clark and Antawn Jamison combined to score nine straight points to help the Lakers finish the quarter strongly and take a 72-61 lead into the fourth.

With just over four minutes to play the Mavericks trailed by seven, but the Lakers inexorably pulled away.

Mike Rice fired by Rutgers after video shows coach abusing players



PISCATAWAY, N.J. - Rice was ousted Wednesday, a day after the public got its first look at excerpts of video showing Rice yelling gay slurs, kicking and shoving players and throwing basketballs at them during practices. The aggressive behavior was seen as especially flagrant at a university that has struggled in recent years with the role of its athletic program and how gay students are treated on campus.

Troubles with Rice first became public late last year when he was suspended for three games, fined and ordered to anger management counseling after the video was provided to university officials.

Students and New Jersey officials praised Wednesday's firing of Rutgers men's basketball coach Mike Rice, but said

that they want more answers about why it wasn't done sooner.

"I want to know why he (athletic director Tim Pernet) didn't take any action sooner," said Jimmy Nguyen, a 22-year-old senior. "Why did he wait this long?"

Speaking with reporters outside his home in Little Silver, Rice apologized for his actions.

"It's troubling, but at some time maybe I'll try to explain it," he said. "But right now there's no explanation for what's on those films. There is no excuse for it. I was wrong. I want to tell everybody who's believed in me that I'm deeply sorry for the pain and hardship that I've caused."

Gov. Chris Christie called it "a regrettable episode for the university."

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HOUSTON, TX (AFP) : David Murphy #7 of the Texas Rangers singles to right field in the sixth inning against the Houston Astros at Minute Maid Park yesterday. Rangers won 4-0.



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Amateur Kickboxing Event -Stichting Charlotte Kickboxing Aruba Juniors



-- After so many obstacles the Amateur Kickboxing Event took place last week-end. It started with a boxing match between Jozef Wever VS Nattronn Loefstok. Followed by a Full Contact karate fight of Desiree Croes VS Shamila Tromp. Both athletes were very strong and the battle was fierce. Many kickboxing fans was waiting for this match.

KickBoxing Matches:

Dionicio Geerman vs-

Rusean Hoek was the first match, both were aggressive and strong but as we know there can only be one winner. Stanly Van vs Shawn Koolman.

Shawn was more superior, and the fight had to be stopped.

Igmar Luidens vs Guillermo Kelkboom

This was a very competitive fight.

Diolmen FyI vs Johan Ubijaan Both fighters lasted until the last round.

Jonathan Harigan vs Tristan Vermeulen

They were strong and aggressive.

And the main fight of the night between Jose Reyes vs Mitchell Paul Kelly, Jose Reyes came out victorious..

Winners:

Jozef Wever – Jefferson Boxing Gym

Derisee Croes – Mas Oyama Karate kickboxing

Shamila Tromp –Dojo Shamila Tromp

Rusean Hoek – Stay Thai Fit

Shawn Koolman – Stay Thai Fit

Igmar Luidens – Mas Oyama Karate kickboxing

Tristan Vermeulen – Mas Oyama karate kickboxing

Guillermo Kelkboom – Jefferson Boxing Gym

Jose Reyes – Jefferson Boxing Gym

Keep pending for the next event coming soon !

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